

## WTO MC 12

### ❖ Context

- Recently, the 12th **Ministerial conference (MC)** of the **WTO** concluded. MC is the top decision making body of the WTO which meets once every two years. It takes a decision by consensus means anyone can **veto** the decision.

### ❖ Key Takeaways

#### ❖ Fishing Subsidies

- The WTO passed a multilateral agreement that would curb 'harmful' subsidies on **illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUUF)** for the next four years, to better protect global fish stocks.
- It is the **second multilateral agreement** in WTO's history.
- Since 2001, member states have been negotiating the banning of subsidies that promote overfishing.
- India and other developing countries successfully lobbied to remove a section of the proposal that would threaten some subsidies which would assist **small-scale artisanal fishing**.
- **Artisanal and traditional farmers** would not face any restrictions under this agreement.

#### ❖ COVID Vaccine Production

- WTO members agreed to **temporarily waive intellectual property patents** on Covid-19 vaccines without the consent of the patent holder for **5 years**, so that they can more easily manufacture them domestically.
- The current agreement is a **watered down version** of the original **proposal made by India and South Africa** in 2020. They had wanted broader intellectual property waivers on **vaccines, treatments and tests**.

#### ❖ Global Food Security

- Members agreed to a binding decision to **exempt food purchased by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) for humanitarian purposes**, from any export restrictions.
- However, countries would be **allowed to restrict food supplies to ensure domestic food security needs**.
- India's key demand to allow it to export food from its public stockholdings to other countries will reportedly be discussed in the next Ministerial Conference.

#### ❖ E - commerce Transactions

- All members agreed to continue the long standing **moratorium on custom duties** on e-commerce transmissions until the subsequent Ministerial Conference or until March 31, 2024, whichever is earlier.
- India had argued for the review of the moratorium which has been in force **since 1998** and has caused a potential loss of **\$50 BN** of tariffs for developing countries between **2017 & 2020**.

## Critical Information Infrastructure (CII)

### ❖ Context

- Recently, the Union **Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY)** has declared **IT resources of ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and UPI managing entity NPCI** as '**critical information infrastructure**'.

#### ❖ Critical Information Infrastructure (CII)

- The **Information Technology Act of 2000** defines "Critical Information Infrastructure" as a "computer resource, the incapacitation or destruction of which shall have **debilitating impact on national security, economy, public health or safety**".
- The **government**, under the Act, has the **power to declare any data, database, IT network** or communications infrastructure as CII to protect that digital asset.
- Any person who secures access or attempts to secure access to a protected system in violation of the law can be **punished with a jail term of up to 10 years**.
- **NCIIPC** has broadly identified the following as '**Critical Sectors**':
  - Power & Energy
  - Banking, Financial Services & Insurance
  - Telecom
  - Transport
  - Government
  - Strategic & Public Enterprises

#### ❖ CII Protection in India

- **Nodal Agency:**
  - **The National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Center (NCIIPC)**.
  - It is taking all measures to protect the nation's critical information infrastructure.
  - It was **created in January 2014**.
- **Functions:**
  - It is **mandated to guard CII** from unauthorized access, modification, use, disclosure, disruption, incapacitation or distraction.
  - NCIIPC will **monitor and forecast national-level threats to CII** for policy guidance, expertise sharing and situational awareness for early warning or alerts.
  - In the event of any threat to critical information infrastructure the **NCIIPC may call for information and give directions to the critical sectors or persons** serving or having a critical impact on Critical Information Infrastructure.

### Face to Face Centres



## News in Between the Lines

### Mukhyamantri Matrushakti & Poshan Sudha Yojana



#### ❖ Context

- The **Gujarat government** launched two flagship programmes under its **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Poshan Abhiyan.**

#### ❖ Background

- Gujarat ranked at the bottom in NFHS 5, along with Uttar Pradesh, with the **lowest adequate diets for children** between 6-23 months at 5.9% each.
- One of the **biggest impacts of deficient diet in the first 1,000 days** are huge reparations on cognitive ability, including sensory and language capabilities.

#### ❖ About Mukhyamantri Matrushakti Yojana

- The scheme will cover **7 lakh pregnant and lactating women.**
- It is Gujarat government's first scheme aimed at dealing with dietary deficiency within the first 1,000 days of the conception of a child (from pregnancy to 2 years), considered the crucial first window to check malnutrition.
- It will entail distribution of **2 kg chickpeas, 1 kg toor dal and 1 litre fortified groundnut oil.**
- The entire scheme will be electronically monitored. Packets will have **barcodes** which will be scanned. The beneficiary will receive **OTPs** confirming that they have received these packages.

#### ❖ About Poshan Sudha Yojana

- Under this scheme, **hot cooked meals** will be provided to **tribal women once a day at Anganwadi centres.**
- The pilot has been carried out in 10 districts in the state and is now being extended to all 14 tribal-dominated districts.

### Fujian



#### ❖ Context

- China launched its **third, a new-generation aircraft carrier, Type - 003,** named Fujian.

#### ❖ Key Highlights

- It is the **first such ship to be both designed and built in China.**
- China's first carrier was a repurposed Soviet ship, and its second was built in China but based upon a Soviet design.
- China's new carrier was named after Fujian province on the country's southeastern coast, following a tradition after naming its first two carriers after the provinces of **Liaoning and Shandong.**
- The next aircraft carrier to be built is expected to be nuclear powered.

#### ❖ EMALS

- Fujian is equipped with an **electromagnetic aircraft launch system** or EMALS.
- Such a system puts less stress on the aircraft than older steam-type catapult launch systems.
- The use of a catapult means that the **ship will be able to launch a broader variety of aircraft.**
- This is regarded by Indian naval experts as major advancement by the Chinese navy as **only the US has such an advanced system.**

### Take Home Ration



#### ❖ Context

- The Centre has instructed state governments and their **Women and Child Development (WCD)** departments to ensure **digitisation of anganwadi services** so that **migrating families** can continue accessing the government's Take Home Ration (THR) scheme.

#### ❖ About THR

- Take Home Ration, or THR, is provided to **children between 6 months and 3 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers,** as well as **adolescent girls** as part of the Centre's flagship **Integrated Child Development Services.**

## Face to Face Centres

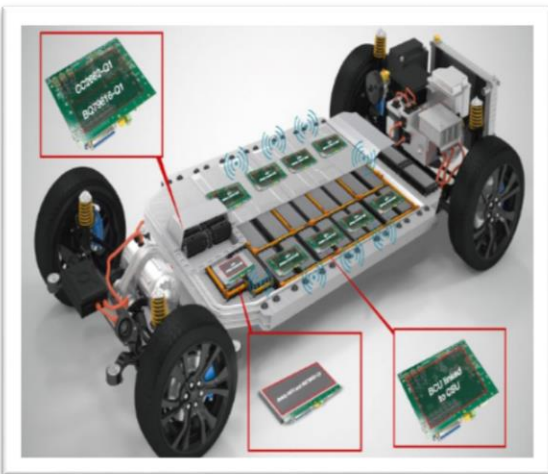


- **Freshly cooked hot food** and a **morning snack** is provided to **children between 3 and 6 years**, who attend anganwadi centres daily, for **300 days** annually.
- The ICDS scheme is now Aadhaar-linked.

❖ **Poshan 2.0**

- Under its Poshan 2.0 programme, the Centre is now focusing on **universalisation of access to anganwadi services**, particularly for migrant families.
- Poshan Abhiyan 2.0 covers over **11 crore children** in the country. Take Home Ration has also been linked to the **Poshan tracker** to ensure that packets reach the beneficiary.
- The 'Poshan Tracker' is a **mobile based application** rolled out by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India on 1st March 2021.
- It is a **job-aid** to the anganwadi worker and a **beneficiary-centric service delivery application** which promotes real time data with analytics.

## Battery Management System



❖ **Context**

- **NITI Ayog & DST** have initiated discussions with industry and academia towards developing an **open source battery management system (BMS)**.

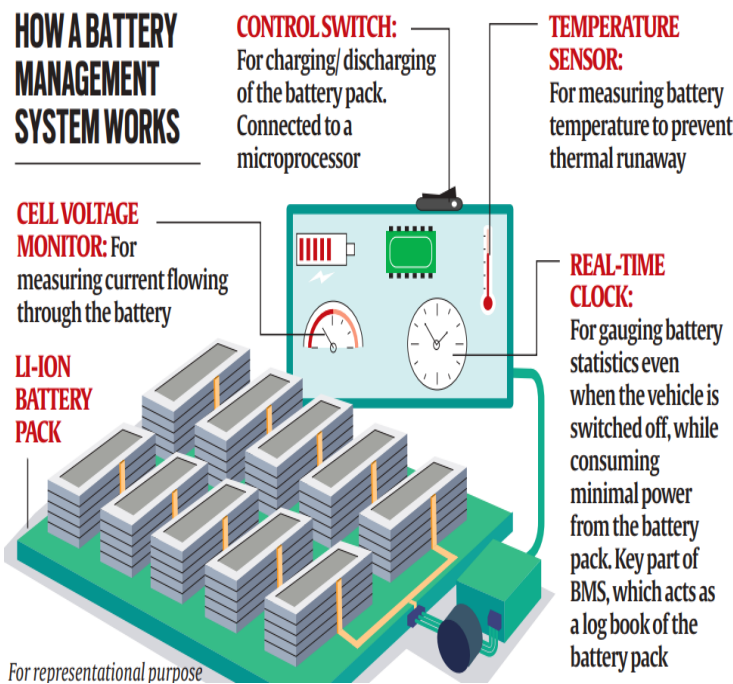
❖ **Background**

- Currently, India is importing EV batteries and other critical components of EVs.
- In the recent past, concerns have been raised due to fire accidents.
- With growing EV participation, it is very important to develop a BMS suitable for Indian operating conditions.

❖ **What is a BMS?**

- EVs are powered by a battery pack consisting of **Li-ion cells**.

**HOW A BATTERY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WORKS**



- A BMS is an **electronic system** that is **connected** to all the cells in the battery pack.
- It constantly measures the current, voltage & temperatures at different sections of the battery pack.
- With all this, **BMS calculates battery pack parameters** - charging and discharging rate, battery life cycle and efficiency.
- Its purpose is to ensure that the **battery pack operates safely**.
- An **open source BMS** would mean that the solution can be customised by different entities as per their manufacturing standards.

## Juneteenth



❖ **Context**

- In 2021, US President signed a law to commemorate **June 19 or Juneteenth as a federal holiday** to commemorate the end of slavery after the **American civil war (1861-65)**.

❖ **About Juneteenth**

- **Juneteenth**– the portmanteau of **June** and **nineteenth**– is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the **ending of slavery in the US**, observed on **June 19 every year**.
- It is also known as **Emancipation Day** or **Juneteenth Independence Day**.
- On **January 1, 1863**, then-president **Abraham Lincoln** issued the **Emancipation Proclamation**, which declared that “all persons held as slaves” within the states in rebellion “are, and henceforward shall be free.”

### Face to Face Centres



• On June 19, 1865, two months after the Civil War had ended, Major General Gordon Granger, from the victorious Union side issued an order to free the last enslaved people on US soil.

• Since **Granger's announcement**, Juneteenth has become a **largely symbolic date representing freedom for African Americans**.

❖ **Context**

➤ Recently, in a medical trial, **12 patients in the US were completely cured of rectal cancer** without requiring any surgery or chemotherapy.

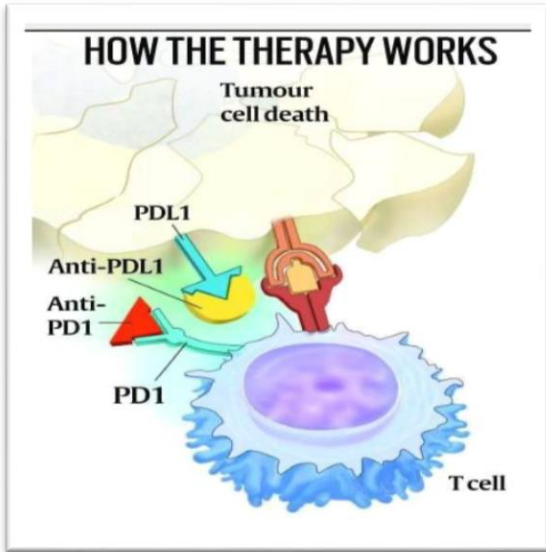
❖ **Key Highlights**

- The trial used a **monoclonal antibody called dostarlimab** every three weeks for six months for the treatment of a particular kind of stage-2 or 3 rectal cancer.
- The trial showed that **immunotherapy alone** – without any chemotherapy, radiotherapy, or surgery could **completely cure the patients** with a particular kind of **rectal cancer called 'mismatch repair deficient' cancer**.
- **'Mismatch repair deficient'** cancer is most common among colorectal, gastrointestinal, and endometrial cancers.
- Patients suffering from this condition **lack the genes to correct typos** in the DNA that occur naturally while cells make copies.

❖ **Mechanism of the Treatment**

- The immunotherapy belongs to a category called **PD1 blockades** that are now recommended for the treatment of such cancers rather than chemotherapy or radiotherapy. PD1 is a **protein that regulates immune function** and can sometimes keep T cells from killing cancer cells.
- The therapy in the trial used PD1 blockades, **allowing T cells to kill cancer cells**.

## Cancer Therapy



• Recently, The **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)** has issued draft guidelines for operationalisation of Ro-Ro (Roll-on, Roll-off) and Ro-Pax ferry service along the coast of India.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- The guidelines **encompass the two aspects of ferry operation** namely; **concessions for terminal operation and license for operation of Ro-Pax vessels**.
- The ministry under its **Sagarmala Programme**, has embarked on developing an ecosystem for promotion of Ro-Ro ferry and waterway transportation in the country.
- Under the gambit of Sagarmala, the Ministry has operationalized **Ro-Pax Ferry service between Ghogha - Hazira in Gujarat and Mumbai - Mandwa in Maharashtra**.
- **Significance of the Guidelines:**
  - These guidelines will **homogenize and streamline the development and operations** of ferry services.
  - It will **promote ease of doing business** by eliminating unnecessary delays and disagreements.
  - It will **introduce digital interventions** at customer interface.
- **Benefits of Ro-Ro and Ro- Pax:**
  - Reduced travel time.
  - Reduced logistics cost.
  - Lower pollution in comparison to conventional mode of transportation.

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## Ro-Ro and Ro-Pax Ferry Services



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## Perfect Victim

### Face to Face Centres





### ❖ About Perfect Victim

- To be the perfect victim means to show that the **victim did not ask for it**.
- When it comes to domestic violence or sexual violence no one is ever “asking for it”, but **patriarchal public and legal systems often hold victims responsible for assaults**.
- When survivors open up about sexual assault or domestic violence, one of their biggest fears is that they would not live up to the expectations of “**perfect victimhood**”.
- It is a **major reason why survivors do not come forward** and seek legal help, and one of the biggest myths about sexual violence.
- **Victims are expected to have a watertight case** and at every step remain “faultless”, so much so that **victims often second-guess themselves**.
- Those who believe in perfect victimhood pick apart a victim’s personality traits or behaviors that may even be unrelated to the assault in order to disparage the victim and ultimately question their credibility.

### Kalika Mata Temple



### ❖ Context

- The PM of India will inaugurate the redeveloped **Kalika Mata temple atop the Pavagadh hill in Panchmahal district, Gujarat**.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- For the first time, **the temple will have a shikhara** (superstructure and spire) where earlier stood the Hazrat Sadanshah Wali Peer dargah.
- **Dargah was relocated** to a space next to it in an “amicable settlement” during redevelopment.

### ❖ Kalika Mata Temple

- It is a **Hindu goddess temple complex** and pilgrim center at the summit of Pavagadh Hill in Panchmahal District, Gujarat.
- The temple complex is **part of the Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- It dates from the **10th or 11th centuries**.
- It is believed that **in the 15th century, Sultan Mahmud Begda conquered Champaner** where he set up his capital and “**destroyed the shikhara of the temple**”.
- The Sadanshah Peer dargah is believed to have been built around that time.
- A lore goes that **Sadanshah Peer, originally a Hindu Fakir**, who embraced Islam to be part of Mahmud Begda’s court after he established his Sultanate in Gujarat and captured Pavagadh, **played a key role in saving the temple from being destroyed**.
- The temple has three images of goddesses:
  - The central image is of Kalika Mata, flanked by Kali on the right and Bahuchara mata on the left.
- On Chitra sud 8, a fair is held at the temple which is attended by thousands of devotees. The temple is the **site of one of the Great holy Shakti Peethas**.

### Mango Festival



### Context

- Recently, the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** has organized an **eight-day long mango festival in Bahrain** to boost the export of Mangoes.

### ❖ Key Highlights

- **34 varieties** of mangoes from the eastern states of West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha will be on display at eight different locations in **Bahrain’s Al Jazeera Group supermarket**.
- All these mango varieties have been procured from farmers and two farmer producer organizations. The festival is part of APEDA’s new initiative to explore international markets for Indian mangoes.

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